

# **Open Space Recommendations**

Progress and planned actions to date

## **Open Space Recommendation #1**

*The City should commit itself to increasing open space in W/H through purchasing land and developing parks and playgrounds wherever opportunities exist.*

## **Response to date:**

- 2000: Green Ribbon Report

## **Challenges:**

- Existing land uses
- Property values

## **Potential solutions:**

### **Short-term**

- Reclaim small “pocket parks”
- Maximize existing parks

### **Long-term**

- Acquire parks in the neighborhood or nearby
- Require open space in large developments

## **Open Space Recommendation #2**

*The Elm Street Park/ Hampshire Street sitting area should be redesigned to incorporate an active playground for children.*

## **Response to date:**

- No action to date

## **Challenges:**

- Balancing many priorities
- Securing funding

## **Potential solutions:**

### **Short-term**

- Pursue funding
- Re-evaluate best uses for site

### **Long-term**

- Community process
- Begin renovation (FY2005 or later)

## **Open Space Recommendation #3**

*The City should allocate more funds toward park maintenance and attach a service contract to all newly renovated parks.*



## **Response to date:**

Changes to DPW maintenance system:

- 3-sectors with dedicated crews
- Urban Parks and Forestry has specialized positions (such as arborist)
- Private service contracts for certain parks

## **Open Space Recommendation #4**

*Redesign Donnelly Field for better definition of play spaces.*

## **Response to date:**

- Since 1995:
  - Playground upgraded
  - Youth center constructed
- Planned renovation of field area:
  - Improved lighting
  - Better turf/ drainage in outfield
  - New bleachers/ seating/ picnic areas
  - Better baseball amenities/ basketball courts
  - Improved plantings, pathways, and entrances
  - Seasonal portable toilets

## **Open Space Recommendation #5**

*Upgrade and better maintenance of Gold Star Mother's Pool.*

*The Committee recommends that the pool should be enclosed to allow use throughout the year.*

## **Response to date:**

- No action to date.

## **Challenges:**

- Upfront costs for major renovation
- Funding for year-round staffing

## **Open Space Recommendation #6**

*Street trees should be planted... in the area abutting the DPW site.*

## **Response to date:**

- Some increase in tree cover
- Future actions depend on the potential relocation of DPW facility

## **Open Space Recommendation #7**

*Street cleaning should be done more frequently, particularly around bars and restaurants.*



## **Response to date:**

- DPW's street cleaning program includes:
  - Monthly sweeping of all streets, April-December. More frequent treatment of major city squares.
  - Daily hand-vacuuming/ litter collection in major city squares.